

529,097

Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 MAR 2005

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 April 2004 (08.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/029229 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12N 5/00**

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/004598

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(22) International Filing Date:
24 September 2003 (24.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/413,046 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002) US
0222162.0 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002) GB
60/494,595 12 August 2003 (12.08.2003) US

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND MATERIALS RELATING TO NEUROGENESIS

(57) Abstract: Methods for promoting dopaminergic neuronal development and producing neural cells having a dopaminergic phenotype. Dopaminergic neural cells may be used for treating individuals having a neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease. Dopaminergic cells may be implanted into the brain of the individual, and/or dopaminergic neural development may be induced or enhanced in the brain of the individual. Methods comprise expressing a nuclear receptor of the NG4A subfamily, e.g. Nurr1, above basal levels within the cell and treating the cell with a Wnt ligand, thereby producing or enhancing proliferation, self-renewal, survival and/or dopaminergic induction, differentiation, survival or acquisition of a neuronal dopaminergic phenotype. The cell may be co-cultured with astrocytes or glial cells and may be contacted with an FGF growth factor.



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